

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USOECD

PASS LABOR FOR SAMUEL, GREEN, HEWITT AND JENSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OECD
SUBJECT: MEETING ON HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT FOLLOW-UP, MAY 16, 1978

SUMMARY - 19 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE EC CONSIDERED SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR A PART II FUNDED FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM TO HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT. THERE WAS A GENERAL SUPPORT FOR SUBSTANCE OF A FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED BY THE SECRETARIAT, BUT NOT YET FOR CONCEPT OF SEPARATE PART II ACTIVITY. THE U.S. SPOKE IN FAVOR OF A PART II FUNDED PROGRAM. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, SWEDEN ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR PART II APPROACH. OTHER DELS WERE EITHER NON-COMMITTAL OR EXPLICITLY OPPOSED. SECRETARIAT WILL CANVASS DELEGATIONS INFORMALLY FOR EXPRESSIONS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND FORMALLY FOR ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP AND WILL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL WHICH WILL MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION OF PROGRAM DESIGN AND METHOD OF FUNDING.
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LLOYD FELDMAN, DOL, LED US DEL. END SUMMARY.

1. NINETEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND EC REP ATTENDED MEETING. ABSENT WERE AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, GREECE, IRELAND AND LUXEMBOURG AND NORWAY. DIRECTORATE HEAD J.R. GASS CHAIRED THE MEETING.

2. FOLLOWING A BRIEF INTRODUCTION BY GASS, DELEGATES WERE ASKED TO GIVE THEIR GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL VIEWS ON THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY OUTLINED IN SECRETARIAT PAPERS, SME/D/78.2 "PROPOSED ACTIVITIES", AND SME/D/78.03 "ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS". BRIEFLY, THE PROPOSALS CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT MODELED AFTER THE OECD CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (CERI), WHICH WOULD DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT. THE PROGRAM, TO BE FUNDED UNDER PART II OF THE OECD BUDGET, WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY INTERESTED COUNTRIES UNDER THE AEGIS OF A GOVERNING BOARD OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. THE BUDGET FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION IS ESTIMATED AT \$400,000 TO BE MADE UP OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

3. U.S. DEL EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL AS AN APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP TO THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE. THE U.S. FURTHER INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO FUND THE PROGRAM UNDER PART II RATHER THAN PART I SO THAT THE ONGOING PROGRAM OF WORK WOULD NOT BE DISTURBED.

4. WHILE THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FOLLOW-UP IN THE AREAS SUGGESTED, THERE WAS NO UNCLASSIFIED

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OUTRIGHT SUPPORT FOR PART II FUNDING AT THE MEETING. SWEDEN ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT FOLLOWING THE MEETING. FRANCE, IRELAND, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, DENMARK AND FINLAND WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE SECRETARIAT'S APPROACH BUT NON COMMITTAL (RATHER THAN EXPLICITLY OPPOSED, AT THIS POINT) ON THE SUBJECT OF PART II FUNDING. (COMMENT: BASED ON THEIR STATEMENTS, THESE COUNTRIES MAY POSSIBLY BE CONTRIBUTORS TO PART II-FUNDED ACTIVITY AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATION. END COMMENT). OTHER REPRESENTATIVES WERE EITHER SILENT ON THIS MATTER OR EXPLICITLY OPPOSED TO PART II FUNDING. THE SECRETARIAT WILL EXPLORE INFORMALLY THE WILLINGNESS OF THESE AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A PART II ACTIVITY.

5. THE REMAINDER OF THE DISCUSSION CONCERNED THE AREAS OF POSSIBLE INFORMATION EXCHANGE PREFERRED BY THE GOVERNMENTS IN A YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM. THE THREE BROAD AREAS SUGGESTED BY THE SECRETARIAT--PROGRAM EXPERIMENTATION; PROGRAM EVALUATION OR ASSESSMENT; AND BACKGROUND RESEARCH--WERE GENERALLY

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ENDORSED. THE U.S. DEL INTERVENED AT SEVERAL POINTS

IN THE DISCUSSION TO NOTE THE PARTICULAR AREAS OF U.S. INTEREST, EMPHASIZING THE PRIORITIES OF U.S. PROGRAM OF EXPERIMENTATION BEING CONDUCTED UNDER THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT. THE U.S. ALSO NOTED THAT, WHILE EXPERIMENTATION AND EVALUATION WERE SEPARABLE AS CONCEPTS, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT EVALUATION WOULD BE INHERENT IN EXPERIMENTATION TO BE STUDIED/CONDUCTED UNDER THE PROGRAM. OTHER DELEGATIONS APPEARED TO BE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN EVALUATION OF ONGOING PROGRAMS AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, IN EXPERIMENTATION, WITH BASIC RESEARCH RECEIVING LOWEST PRIORITY.

6. GASS, IN HIS CLOSING STATEMENT, SAID EACH DELEGATION WOULD RECEIVE A RECORD OF THE MEETING AND WOULD BE FORMALLY ASKED TO COMMENT ON AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, SUPPLEMENT THE LIST OF SUGGESTED AREAS OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY. DELEGATIONS WILL NOT BE ASKED TO COMMENT

ON THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BUDGET.
BASED ON THESE RESPONSES AND THE RECORD OF THIS MEETING,
GASS WILL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL WHO WILL
REPORT TO THE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL WILL THEN DECIDE
ON THE FINAL FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM DESIGN, BUDGET LEVEL
AND THE QUESTION OF PART II VS PART I FUNDING. PARTI-
CIPATING COUNTRIES WILL THEN DECIDE ON HOW FUNDING WILL
BE ALLOCATED BY COUNTRY IF A PART II APPROACH IS
DECIDEDUPON.
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